

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4AWASHINGTON TIMES
17 July 1985

Embassy safeguards cost put at \$4 billion

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Security measures to protect U.S. embassies against terrorist attacks will cost about \$4 billion, the CIA's former deputy director, retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, told Congress yesterday.

The career intelligence officer told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that estimates for rebuilding or restructuring State Department facilities overseas initially ran as high as \$7.5 billion. Final estimates, based on a report last month, are \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion, he said.

Adm. Inman headed the Secretary of State's Advisory Panel on Overseas Security, which was formed a year ago to find ways to protect U.S. embassies against terrorist attacks. The panel's report, issued last month, calls for setting up a Diplomatic Security Service, a new building program, a capital trust fund to protect the security program from the uncertainty of congressional budget authorizations, and a global diplomatic offensive against terrorism.

"The panel was persuaded that this country ought to engage in a sustained, broad diplomatic offensive to try to persuade the family of nations that terrorism must be dealt with collectively, and that if it is not dealt with collectively, the U.S. will ultimately act unilaterally," Adm. Inman said.

He said the panel discussed various options for embassy security, such as establishing "fortress" facilities modeled after Soviet Embassy and consular compounds, applying state-of-the-art security systems and using armored personnel carriers.

He said the panel rejected the notion that all embassy facilities

should be "totally open," to promote better diplomatic representation and express the openness of American society.

But, he said, "There is no requirement for Americans to be targets for assassins."

He also called for establishing standards of accountability to determine if "blame can be assigned" when "human failings" are uncovered in investigations of major terrorist attacks.

The cornerstone of the panel's report is its recommendation that a Diplomatic Security Service be established within the State Department. The new agency would be modeled after the U.S. Secret Service and would have security and intelligence responsibilities for embassies. It would be headed by an assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security.

Adm. Inman said the service would not try to usurp the role of ambassadors but would recruit intelligence and security professionals of such high caliber that embassy officials would seek out their advice.

In prepared testimony, Adm. Inman said terrorist incidents against U.S. overseas personnel, both official and private, have "steadily increased." He urged the administration to adopt "a sound policy on dealing with actual terrorists acts." The administration should "stop talking about it until they have that policy, then announce it and stop talking about it," Adm. Inman said.